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7) Title: NETWORKING SYSTEMS

8) Abstract

A novel networking architecture and technique for transmitting both cells and packets or frames across a common switch fabric, cited, at least in part, by utilizing a common set of algorithms for the forwarding engine (the ingress side) and a common set of algorithms for the QoS management (the egress part) that are provided for each I/O module to process packet/cell information without affecting the correct operation of ATM switching and without transforming packets into cells for transfer across the switch fabric.